

## **First Meeting**

The working group conducted its first meeting September 2, 2016 in Murfreesboro, TN.

### **Purpose of the Meeting:**

- lay the foundation and expectations of the group
- update on the progress of Objective 1 and Objective 8
- set the agenda and location for the next meeting

## **Second Meeting**

The Objective 1 working group held its second meeting Thursday, September 29 in Cookeville, TN. The working group is currently focused on streamlining annual reporting to improve data accuracy, capture useful data, reduce burdensome reporting efforts, and improve solid waste planning statewide.

### **Purpose of the Meeting:**

- review statutory and regulatory solid waste and materials management annual reporting requirements
- compare current reporting requirements to solid waste and materials management reporting and planning needs for local governments and TDEC
- identify opportunities to improve user experience
- discuss outputs and deliverables that TDEC can generate from data reported during the annual reporting process that are useful to all stakeholders.

TDEC Environmental Consultant Seth McCormick presented sections of the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Act and TDEC's Waste Reduction and Planning Rules that establish: various reporting requirements for municipal solid waste regions, counties, and recovered materials processing facilities; and preparation and submission of annual reports, progress reports covering 10 years, and annual progress reports on implementation of regional plans. Currently, each of the three aforementioned reports is established independently in statute and rule. However, information required as part of each of these reports is provided annually to TDEC in a single submittal via Re-TRAC Connect by March 31.

The group evaluated the usefulness of the reporting elements currently required for each of the individual reports. Discussions suggested that some reporting elements required in 815(b) were relevant in the early 1990's but are less relevant today. The group agreed to reconsider whether such reporting elements should continue to be

reported to the state on an annual basis. Specific contents that were flagged as no longer relevant were 815(b)(2)(C), (D), (E), 815(b)(3), (5), and (6).

The group then evaluated new potential questions to continue to meet statutory and regulatory requirements for the report due March 31, but significantly streamline questions compared to the previous annual reporting process. The working group provided feedback to the proposed questions and discussed other ways the report submission questions could be reworded to allow for more standardized Yes/No responses and drop down lists that would allow for analysis of responses across regions and previous reporting years.

**Next Action Steps:**

- incorporate working group feedback into a draft proposal for new annual reporting questions
- send updated document to the working group for additional comments or concerns and finalize for the 2017 reporting year.
- pre-populate the 2016 report survey question responses with past reporting data